

# AMAA news



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# Introducing Levon Filian

## AMAA's New Executive Director

**S**tarting on January 1, 2010 the "baton of leadership" of the AMAA has been passed to Mr. Levon Filian. The Board of Directors at it's Dec. 5, 2009 meeting accepted and approved the recommendation of it's RIC Committee, headed by Mr. Albert Momjian, Esq. to have Mr. Levon Filian as it's new Executive Director, succeeding Mr. Andrew Torigian.

The AMAA board and it's large community of supporters owe Mr. Andy Torigian special recognition and gratitude, not only for his long and fruitful years of service and dedication, but for his wisdom and foresight to search for a new Executive Director while he was still in good health and active. Mr. Andy Torigian will continue to endeavor to promote the mission of AMAA in heralding the good news of salvation and helping less fortunate Armenians all over the world.

The new Executive Director has a unique blend of qualities and experiences that will benefit the work of AMAA in the foreseeable future. In Levon's life story to date we find a multifaceted individual; a businessman; an administrator; an educator; and a church member and leader. The skills acquired because of these functional endeavors will provide him to be an effective steward of the AMAA missions.

Levon Filian is a son of "Musa Dagħ"; born in Ainjar, Lebanon a few years after the Second World War. he is the offspring of impoverished refugees who came to a desolate area that now flourishes with orchards, dairy and agricultural production.

Levon Filian is a product of the educational missions of the AMAA. He received his christian and secondary education at the Armenian Evangelical High School in Ainjar, Lebanon. He pursued his higher education at the Haigazian College and Near East School of Theology in Beirut. He furthered his education and studies at California Sate University in California. Levon has had the unquenched desire to learn and search for knowledge. It must be said that the visionary programs of the AMAA in education have produced a long list of leaders in the Armenian Communities in the Diaspora and Evangelical Churches worldwide. We are confident that the enthusiasm of our past Executive Directors to provide the resources for christian education will be front and center for the new Executive Director.

Much can be said about the new AMAA Executive Director to introduce him to the AMAA community worldwide. However, it is important to note that he is friendly, sociable, passionate, a relentless pursuer of goals, determined to make a difference, and eager to serve his Lord and Savior and dedicate his time and best efforts in the service of his Armenian nation.

We are confident that his years of service to the AMAA will be filled with significant accomplishments with the help and participation of all who love this organization.

Welcome Levon Fillian to AMAA Leadership and may God bless you with his wisdom and fill your life with the joy of giving your talents to the services of the Lord and the Armenian people.

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Students at the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian Secondary  
School in Nor Marash, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon

**Now you can join us on Facebook (AMAA)  
and follow us on Twitter (AMAATweets).**

Easter 2010

Dear Friends:

We will celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior on the first Sunday in April. The word April is derived from the Latin word "Aperire" translated "to open", reflecting the beginning of new life. The word April in Armenian means "life-living".

This year, as we celebrate Easter, let us remember the amazing miracle witnessed on Easter Sunday. The graveyard was "opened", and a new life was promised. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26. And again Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6.

Indeed, herein lies the amazing message of eternal life, and the amazing question asked to every one of us – Do you believe this?...

This is what the AMAA stands for. To preach the Gospel to all nations to show the way, teach the truth and invite everyone to the faith of eternal life.

The AMAA, you and I, collectively unite in prayer to carry out this mission faithfully through 24 countries around the world. We provide support to over 140 Evangelistic, educational and humanitarian programs. We build churches, open schools, prepare pastors and teachers, educate our youth and prepare leaders. We provide a glass of cold water and feed the hungry. We visit the lonely and share the peace of the comforter - the Holy Spirit. We make a difference!

On this Easter Season, as we celebrate the beginning of new life in God's creation, new blossoms, new flowers, we welcome you with two questions:


1. Do you believe that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life?"
2. Do you believe in the AMAA mission?

Have a blessed Easter!

Քրիստոս յարեալ ի մեռելոց. Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի:  
"Krisdos haryav ee merelotz. Orhnyal e haroutuneh Krisdosi"  
(Christ arose from the dead. Blessed is the resurrection of Christ).

  
Levon Filian  
Executive Director

In Christ's service,

  
Dikran Youmshakian  
Field Director



# Sold-Out Crowd of Over 500 Attend AMAA Children's Fashion Show and Luncheon

The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel was the beautiful setting of the AMAA Child and Orphan Care luncheon and children's fashion show. Over 500 guests were captivated during the reception and silent auction with so many wonderful items to bid on. To begin the program, the luncheon co-chairs Lisa Karamardian, Jessica Vartoughian and Christine Minasian warmly welcomed the lively gathering. The three co-chairs of the event worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the luncheon enjoyable for all the guests. Leslie Kevorkian gave a moving devotional and Joyce Stein, esteemed advisor and National Co-Chair of the Child and Orphan Care Committee, followed with remarks about the AMAA and its critical ministry to help needy children and their families.

This year's silent auction was especially spectacular. There were more than 130 items to bid on! Argine Jean Kelegian, the silent auction chair, and her wonderful committee procured many of the amazing items, including resort packages such as the Montage, the Phoenician, incredible jewelry, beautiful Lalique and Lladro pieces, and much more. Sandy Bedrosian, who published the silent auction book, helped procure many items which made the auction a tremendous success.

The ballroom looked spectacular with festive tables adorned with beautiful floral centerpieces which were generously donated by Z's Garden in Glendale. The flowers were so breathtaking when you walked in the room--it was hard to focus on much else.

During lunch, Grace Kurkjian introduced Belle Ashodian who was honored for sponsoring 300 families each year in Armenia and Bulgaria. She encouraged everyone to sponsor a needy child and make a difference in their lives. A poignant video was shown describing the poor and substandard conditions which many of Armenia's children live in. Tina Segel asked everyone to sponsor a child because each person can make a profound difference in the life of a needy child or orphan in Armenia.



*One of the many tables full of auction items*

After a delicious dessert, the children's fashion show was introduced by Caroline Tufenkian and Marilyn Bezdikian, who along with Ani Zakari, coordinated this year's show. The fashion show was sponsored and produced by Nordstrom of Glendale. They worked tirelessly to make the fashion show a success. Sixty five beautiful children and handsome teenagers participated in the fashion show. The Committee thanked Nordstrom for their participation and support.

The finance and reservations chair, Sandra Kalemkiarian, announced that the proceeds of the luncheon were \$245,000. Sandra works tirelessly every year, to efficiently close out the auction. "We are grateful for the very generous donations we received this year," explained Sandra, "this has been a record year for attendance--we were sold out."

The guests left the event with a bag full of goodies, including amazing lotions and nail care products donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics International, hair care products and a free hair cut donated by J Beverly Hills and the Juan Juan Center, and delicious pink and white yogurt covered raisins donated by LindaKay Abdulian of National Raisin Company. The beautiful gift bags with the AMAA logo were created and generously donated by Arsi Seraydarian of Pacobond, Inc.

Plans are already underway for next year's fashion show and luncheon which will again be at the Beverly Hills Hotel, explained Lori Muncherian, the West coast co-chair of the committee. We are looking forward to another successful year to help raise money for the orphans and needy children in Armenia. Many children in Armenia lack the basic necessities--food, clothing and shelter. "We are trying to help change a child's life and give hope for a better future," explained Elizabeth Agbabian, Mary Najarian, and Savey Tufenkian who have been devoted to this very worthy cause since the earthquake in Armenia. If you would like to sponsor a child you may contact the AMAA office (201.265.2607) or visit the AMAA's website - [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org). □



*Tina Segel promoting the work of the AMAA*



*Grace Kurkjian introducing the honoree, Mrs. Belle Ashodian (left)*

# "Little Hands, Big Heart"

## Luncheon and Fashion Show to Benefit Children in Armenia and Karabagh

The Orphan and Child Care Committee of the AMAA hosted its "Little Hands, Big Heart" benefit luncheon on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The luncheon was co-chaired by New York and New Jersey Committee co-chairs June Collignon and Mary Jane Hekemian. Over 100 friends and sponsors enjoyed a delicious luncheon at the Rockleigh Country Club in New Jersey. The program was planned to raise funds to benefit the children in Armenia and Karabagh who live in poverty.

The program began with opening words of welcome by Mrs. Collignon followed by a prayer offered by Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, New Jersey

Mary Jane Hekemian, National Co-chair of the Orphan & Child Care Committee, remarked that the event would not have been a success without the generosity of all the friends and businesses which supported this event. She extended heartfelt appreciation to the four families which helped underwrite the event: Mr. Samuel & Mrs. Sandra Hekemian, Mr. Serge & Mrs. Ann Krikorian, Dr. John & Mrs. Marilyn Voskian and Mr. Robert & Mrs. Mary Jane Hekemian. Special thanks were also offered to June & David Collignon for arranging the donation of children's clothing (valued at \$100,000) from The Children's Place. These items will be sent and distributed among the children in Armenia and Karabagh.

During lunch, the guests viewed a video that illustrated the poor and substandard conditions in which many Armenian families and children live. Mr. Levon Filian, the newly appointed Executive Director of the AMAA, made a motivating appeal, challenging each and everyone present to invest in the future of our children. "With your help today, you can help children grow to their fullest potential, becoming tomorrow's leaders,

doctors, teachers, pastors, businessmen and executives in Armenia and across the globe."

The event was enriched by a wonderful cultural program. Two talented teenage vocalists, Gregory Loshkajian and Serena Tchorbajian, entertained the guests with musical selections. They were accompanied by Ms. Catherine Karyanis on the piano.

The fashion show featured over 40 children, who did an excellent job walking down the catwalk to display their clothes to be sent to needy children in Armenia and Karabagh. David Collignon emceed the show with fun-filled information about each model.

Adding to the excitement, throughout the luncheon guests were engaged in a silent auction. Bidding became competitive on some gifts which featured tickets to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, beautiful jewelry, artwork, signed sports memorabilia, gift certificates for travel, concerts and dining out.

The "Little Hands, Big Heart" luncheon was indeed a successful event. All the guests had a wonderful time enjoying a delicious luncheon, a youthful cultural program and a fashion shoe presented by our own beautiful models. The event raised over \$65,000 to benefit the children in Armenia and Karabagh.

*Cont'd. on the following page...*



*Mary Jane Hekemian*



*David Collignon*



*June Collignon*



*Vocalist Serena Tchorbajian*



*Vocalist Gregory Loshkajian*



# Gift Of Love

Delivering Christmas Joy to Children in Armenia and Karabagh

In our Motherland Armenia and Karabagh, most of our Armenian brothers and sisters are still experiencing economic crises, where families are struggling with unemployment, poor living conditions and are counting each penny hoping for better days ahead. That small glimmer of hope for some though, comes once a year during the time when the world celebrates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Summer Camp/Christmas Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has made it their mission to come together, putting their time, effort, love and passion in organizing an annual fundraiser and raise monetary support for their struggling Armenian little brothers and sisters, so that they too, do not miss out on the celebrations during the Christmas season.

Founded in 1999, the AMAA Summer Camp/Christmas Committee has one simple vision: to bring joy and Christ's love to Armenian youth and children during the Christmas season. Each year, the Committee holds a "Christmas in October" event, to raise funds for the AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) to plan and organize Christmas Programs in towns and cities throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia. The proceeds of the 2009 "Christmas in October" fundraiser was over \$40,000.



*Sunday School Children celebrating Christmas - Pureghavan, (above) and Goris (below)*

## *"Little Hands, Big Heart" - Cont'd....*

We Thank God for blessing this event. We also thank all those who attended and participated in the success of this event.

To learn more about the AMAA sponsorship program, please contact the AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or visit the website at [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org). □



*Some of the children showcasing clothes to be sent to Armenia at "Little Hands, Big Heart" fashion show*





*Christmas celebrations in Ghapan, Armenia*



*Christmas celebrations in the Cultural House of Goris, Armenia*

During this past Christmas, AMAA/ECA Armenia organized 48 Christmas programs in 50 locations for more than 10,000 people. The halls were festively decorated with balloons, lights and Christmas trees. Children and youth celebrated Christ's birth with singing, dancing and enjoying a live drama depicting the story of the Nativity. Christmas Joy Packages were given to each child to take home, which were prepared by the AMAA Armenia office.

These Christmas programs are the only time for many of these children to come together in a joyous environment, to learn about the story of the birth of Jesus and receive a Christmas present, which for some, might be the only gift they receive throughout the year. Anyone who witnesses the faces of these children during their time of celebration, understands the importance of these Christmas programs and sees the immense joy it brings to the lives of not just the children, but to their families as well. This is the fruition of the dedication and loving efforts of the AMAA's Summer Camp/Christmas Committee and their vision becoming a reality, which is evident in the eyes and smiles of the Armenian children living in our Motherland. □



*Christmas celebrations in the Armenian Evang'l center of Goris, Armenia*



*Santa visiting the Church in Vanatazor*



*KG Children in Vanatzor Church celebrating Christmas*



*The youth decorating the Vanatzor Church for Christmas*



## Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian School Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

The Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian Secondary School of Nor Marash celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding on Friday, March 12, 2010 in the presence of representatives of the large family that surrounds the school: old and new alumni, teachers, staff, board members, as well as Rev. Mgerdich Karageozian, the President of the UAECNE, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the President of Haigazian University of Beirut, Mr. Antranig Messerlian, the Mayor of Bourj Hammoud, and Dr. Nourijan Demirjian, a former member of the Lebanese parliament.

The 75th Anniversary Committee (Dr. Avedis Chakmakian, Mrs. Anita Andonian, Mrs. Arpy Sharlakian, Miss. Ani Sarkissian, Miss. Sonia Sislian, and Miss. Joanna Momjian) had prepared a program, the MC of which was the Committee Chair, Dr. Chakmakian.

The opening words of welcome were given by Mr. John Sagherian, the Chair of the Board of the school, who then invited Rev. Dr. Haidostian to offer a prayer.

The program featured live music on piano by maestro and composer Garo Avesian, popular Armenian songs by singer and musician Mr. Kevork Bebejian, Armenian folk dance performed by the girls of the school's Sipan dance group and poetry by Taniel Varoujan performed by alumna Tamar Nalbandian. Then the renowned maestro and musician Zakar Keshishian told anecdotes from his school days at Shamlian-Tatigian and ended his memories by playing on Shevi telling the audience that it was on the same platform that he had first played Shevi as a teenager.

Afterwards, Joanna Momjian made a powerpoint presentation on "Bourj Hammoud Yesterday & Today," followed by a word from the principal of the school Pastor Hrayr Cholakian, who thanked



*Rev. Mgerdich Karageozian presenting an appreciation plaque to Mr. Antranig Messerlian, the Mayor of Bourj Hammoud*

all those who had worked hard to make the event a success. In his word, he noted that celebrating the 75th anniversary also serves the future of the school, because it is there to serve many more years. Pastor Cholakian, along with Rev. Karageozian and Mr. Sagherian presented Mr. Messerlian an appreciation plaque for his significant service to the city of Bourj Hammoud as a Mayor and for his long years of generous and encouraging support of Shamlian-Tatikian school. Then all four men cut the celebratory cake.

The closing words were given by Rev. Karageozian, who noted that celebrating the past achievements is important, because the past suggests the steps towards the future. Then he offered the Apostolic Benediction.

Those present at the celebratory banquet went home with renewed memories and heartfelt wishes for successful and fruitful years to their alma mater. □

## New Generator For the Armenian Evangelical Church in Iraq

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those that contributed in the appeal for an electricity generator for the Armenian Evangelical Church in Baghdad, Iraq. The church was without power most of the time, worshipping and holding Sunday School in the dark. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide, they were able to purchase a new generator and it has been installed.

With hundreds of people in attendance each week, including over 150 children, this is a critical need that many have helped us meet. Now, they are able to participate more fully in worship to our Lord and in learning of Him and His love for them. May God continue to bless the church with growth and effective outreach for His Kingdom. □

*Pastor Norek Hovselpian of the church in front of the new generator*





## Consul to Haiti Thanks AMAA for their Relief Efforts



**H**onorary Consul to Haiti in Philadelphia, PA, in a letter dated January 14, 2010 thanked the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) for mobilizing Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide to come to the aid of Haitians devastated by a tragic earthquake that hit the impoverished island on January 12, 2010.

"I received a copy of the January 13 communication from AMAA headquarters to the Armenian Evangelical Churches urging them to pray for the victims of the Haitian tragedy and to show their solidarity through their gifts," wrote Mr. Albert Momjian, Esq. who represents Haiti in Philadelphia. "I commend the AMAA for taking leadership in their efforts."

Upon hearing about the plight of thousands of victims whose lives were devastated or lost, the AMAA appealed to the Armenian Evangelical Churches and its members to show their Christian solidarity and provide their moral and financial support.

As a result, over \$10,000 was raised in the following few days and was rushed to Haiti through the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Samaritan's Purse, two church-related organizations heavily involved in Haiti.

Most touching was the response by Evangelical Churches in Armenia. They raised 250,000 Drams (approximately \$640) – a significant amount considering their resources. This was indeed a thoughtful gesture on behalf of people who had experienced a similar tragedy 20 years ago and who still feel the pain and anguish resulting from the earthquake that hit Armenia in 1988. As he presented their gift, Rev. Samuel Kiragossian said, "we will never forget how the world community came to our aid in 1988." Rev. Kiragossian is the President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Armenia.

The fundraising effort continues as it will take many years for Haitians to recover from this tragedy and rebuild their lives. Those who wish to participate in the relief efforts can send their gifts to the AMAA Haiti Earthquake Fund or visit the website, [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org). □

### *Spiritual Corner*

#### Death After Resurrection?

**Dikran Youmshakian**

**N**o, this is not a typographical error. It is a deception many people believe today. Contrary to what the Gospels confirm and the apostles proclaim, many today continue to question the truth behind the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. They remain confined to their sinful past. To these people the Apostle Paul writes, "How can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?" (I Corinth. 15:12). For people of doubt or no action, there remains "death after resurrection," and that is unfortunate.

This is not only doubtful thinking. Unfortunately, it is still a way of living for many. The truth is Christ came and died for our sins. He was resurrected defeating death once and for all. If we continue our lives the way we lived before or if we just sit idle and wait, Christ for us is still in a tomb.

Only faith can give us life eternal, and faith in the Resurrected Lord can excel us to do His work: witnessing, helping, sharing the truth and proclaiming to the world that, yes, Christ rose from the dead, blessed is His glorious resurrection! □



## AMAA Month Celebrated on the West Coast

**M**arch is AMAA month, when the mission and service ministries of this unique organization are remembered during Special Mission Sunday worship services at Armenian Evangelical Churches in various parts of the globe.

AMAA representatives on Sunday, March 7, 2010 (following the Board of Directors meeting of March 6 in Los Angeles) visited Armenian Evangelical Churches in California, including the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale,

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood and the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles. During these special services reports from the various mission areas were shared with the congregations and more and more people were challenged to participate with their talents and gifts. A special offering was designated to help the general ministries of the AMAA. The AMAA is the missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide and God continues to bless their joint efforts. □



*Some of the congregation of the Armenian Evang'l Church of Hollywood, CA with their pastor, Rev. Apraham Chaparian*



*Missions Lunch at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA*

## Obedience To A God-Given Vision

**O**n August 7, 2009, a Women's Retreat took place at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vanatzor, with the participation of over 175 women, who came from Evangelical Churches both near and far, including Yerevan, Gyumri, Spitak, Vanatsor, Goris, and Karabagh. The Retreat was the result of Tamar Albarian's vision from the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Canada, who organized this retreat with the help of the pastor of the Vanatzor Church, Rev. Samvel Kirakosyan. The theme of the Retreat was "Come and See the Wonders of God." At the end of the retreat about 100 women came forward to seek God and to ask for prayer. A four-day Women's Retreat for the summer of 2010 is being planned. □





## Mary Balian Performs Benefit Concert for the Armenian Children's Milk Fund

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, hundreds of people braved a chilly rainstorm in Los Angeles to attend a concert at the United Armenian Congregational Church in support of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. The performer, Mary Balian, is an Armenian-American singer/songwriter whose repertoire includes pop, world, dance and contemporary Christian music. She sings at various churches and is part of the worship team at her church. In addition, she has performed in several languages on television, in radio and in concert. She contributed to a Christian album in Farsi, and recently toured France and Armenia on the New Hope Band Tour. She has recorded her own CD of Christian hymns sung in Armenian.

Ms. Balian and her husband, Manny Saghbazarian was among the 23 interns who participated in the AMAA's 2009 Internship Program in Armenia. During their visit to Armenia, they assisted in renovation at a church in Ijevan and learned about the many important programs sponsored by the AMAA which assist and enrich the lives of the Armenian people. Mary and her husband Manny were moved to help the AMAA's important work. When they returned home to California, they spoke with Raffi Kaldjian, who also participated in the AMAA Internship program and is the former youth director for the AEUNA on the west coast. They decided to organize an event for the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. The Armenian



Children's Milk Fund, an affiliate of the AMAA, was created to provide baby formula to children in Armenia after the devastating earthquake of 1988. Since 1989, the Milk Fund's sustaining nutritional program has given thousands of Armenian children a healthy start in life.

For more information about the Armenian Children's Milk Fund, visit the AMAA's website at [www.amaa.org/milkfund.htm](http://www.amaa.org/milkfund.htm).

To hear some of Mary Balian's music, visit her website at [www.marybalian.org](http://www.marybalian.org). □

## AMAA Field Director Visits Phoenix, AZ

The Field Director of the AMAA, Dikran Youmshakian made a special trip to Phoenix, AZ to visit AMAA members and friends. The main purpose of this trip was to look at the possibilities of organizing a local chapter of the AMAA in the area. During this trip the Field Director had a unique opportunity to visit Mr. Samuel Mardian, Jr., a longtime member of the AMAA. Mr. Mardian was a former Mayor of Phoenix, AZ.

Mr. Mardian is a well-recognized Armenian-American politician. He was born in Pasadena, CA in 1919, the son of Armenian immigrants from Hadjin in Armenian Cilicia. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Second World War. Later he took over the family's construction business and developed it into a multimillion dollar business. He was elected Mayor of Phoenix, a post that he held from 1960 to 1964.

Mr. Mardian served the AMAA as a Board Member and Vice President in the 1980's. He is retired now and at the age of 91 is still active and interested in Armenian affairs. He closely follows U.S. policies towards Turkey and the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. □



**AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian  
with Mr. Samuel Mardian, Jr.**



# AMAA Interns to Experience Camp Life in Lebanon

**T**he Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is pleased to announce plans for its third Annual Summer Internship Program. This year, the program will find itself at KCHAG, the popular Christian Camp in Lebanon, where hundreds of Armenian children, youth and adult campers had inspiring experiences. The camp, located on the beautiful Monte Verde (Green Mountain) overlooking Beirut, is a five acre area covered by green cedar trees.

Unfortunately, the camp property and buildings, including the chapel, dining hall and the cabins were heavily damaged during the Lebanese Civil War, which ended in 1991.

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) is planning a total restoration of the camp, which will cost a fortune. The AMAA, who has supported this camp for many years, would like to see the camp rebuilt. To lend its support, AMAA's internship program this summer (June 27 - July 12) will concentrate on renovating one building and thus begin the arduous process of preparing the camp for complete renovation. This unforgettable experience will be structured to immerse each intern in the culture and in time with the Lord, offering many opportunities for learning and self-reflection. A personal connection between the interns and the local people will be established, living and working side-by-side with them, creating a feeling of solidarity among those who continually strive for a better life.

Young women and men of age 18 and above are encouraged to participate in this program, travel to Lebanon to learn, labor and have an experience of a lifetime. Applications are available and may be obtained from the AMAA office at (201) 265-2607 or from the AMAA's website – [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org).



*The building to be renovated by the interns*

## Rutgers' CARE Organization Students Help Children of Armenia

**R**utgers' CARE student organization has graciously selected children in Armenia to be the recipients of their health care assistance. Members from CARE recently donated 50 medical care packages and three large containers of children's vitamins to AMAA which were shipped to Armenia. The group organized volleyball and basketball tournaments for students at Rutgers and raised funds for this purpose. They also contacted companies and organizations asking for donations of various medical necessities, e.g. children's vitamins, cough medicines, antihistamines, and other health care products that are much needed in Armenia where many clinic shelves sit empty.

With a vision to extend affordable, quality healthcare services to the community in and around Rutgers University, CARE hopes to aid local healthcare facilities by providing them with any assistance they might require, through volunteering and fundraising efforts. CARE's goal is to reach across the lines from University to community and embrace the surrounding areas to leave an everlasting mark on the society surrounding us. This student-run volunteer organization also provides health-related assistance to needy people in communities located within the U.S. as well as one community overseas, which is selected each semester. The AMAA was most appreciative of their choice of helping children in Armenia. □



*Club members Teny Youmshakian and Krupesh Patel sorting supplies*

# Նոր ՊԱՏՈՒԻՐԱՆԸ

Մեկզմեկ սիրեք, ինչպես ես ձեզ սիրեցի:  
(Յովհաննու 13. 24)

## Տիգրան Երմշաքեան

**Վ**երջին ընթրիքի ընթացքին, Յիսուս անակնկալ արարքով մը իմաստալից պատգամ մը տուաւ աշակերտներուն: «Ընթրիքէն ելաւ եւ հանդրեձնեք մէկդի դրաւ ու ղնչակ մը առնելով մէջքը փաթեց: Ետքը կոնքին մէջ ջուր լեցուց ու սկսաւ աշակերտներուն ոտքերը լուալ:» (Յովհ. 13. 4-5)

Այս անակնկալ էր աշակերտներուն համար, սակայն ոչ Յիսուսի համար, որովհետեւ գիտէր ինչ պիտի ըսէր անոնց: Աշակերտները սակայն զարմանքով իրենց կեղտոտ ու փոշիոտ ոտքերը երկարեցին: Պետրոս Առաքեալ ալ զարմանալով հարցուց.- «Դու իմ ոտքերս պիտի լուաս»:

Յիսուս լուաց բոլորին ոտքերը, եւ այդ ընելէ ետք, ըսաւ անոնց.- «Նոր պատուիրան մը կու տամ ձեզի, որ մէկզմեկ սիրեք, ինչպես ես ձեզ սիրեցի, որ դուք ալ մէկզմեկ սիրեք»:

Պատուիրանները նորութիւն չէին աշակերտներուն համար: Անոնք գիտէին այն 10 պատուիրանները, որ Աստուած տուած էր Մովսէսի միջոցով:

Ինչ որ նորութիւն էր անոնց համար, այն յատուկ բաձարութիւնն էր, որ Յիսուս կու տար սիրոյ վերաբերեալ.- «Մէկզմեկ սիրեք, ինչպես ես ձեզ սիրեցի»:

«Սէրը» Սուրբ Գրային բառ է, որ նաեւ կը ներկայացնէ զԱստուած: Աստուած սէր է: Սէրը նաեւ մարդկային ամենաընտիր զգացումն է: Հայերէն լեզուի մէջ, ինչպէս կարգ մը այլ լեզուներու պարագային, ներառեալ անգլերէնը, «սէր» մէկ բառ է, որ կրնայ ունենալ տարբեր զգացումներու արտայայտութիւններ, ըլլան անոնք հոգեկան կամ ֆիզիքական:

Յունարէն լեզուին մէջ սակայն, գոնէ երեք տարբեր բառեր կը գործածուին սէր բառին համար, ինչպէս *Philia* - եղբայրական կամ բարեկամական սէր, *Eros* - մարմնական կամ ֆիզիքական սէր եւ *Agape* - Աստուածային սէր:

Մարդկային սիրոյ եւ Աստուածային սիրոյ միջեւ գոյութիւն ունի գլխաւոր տարբերութիւն մը, որ Յիսուս կը բաձատրէ Իր արարքով եւ պատուիրանով: Մարդկային սէրը պայմանաւորուած սէր է եւ կախեալ է ենթակայէն, ըլլայ ան անհատ, արարկայ, բնութիւն կամ երկիր: Աստուածային սէրը պայմանաւոր սէր չէ եւ կախեալ չէ ենթակայէն, եւ վեր է բոլոր մարդկային սիրոյ արտայայտութիւններէն:

Երբ Յիսուս կը պատուիրէ Իր աշակերտներուն մէկզմեկ սիրել, ինչպէս ինք կամ Աստուած կը սիրէ բոլորը, ճիշդ այս տարբերութիւնն է որ կ'ուզէ վերցնել սիրոյ արտայայտութիւնն:

Երկու կարեւոր կէտեր նկատի առնելու ենք Յիսուսի այս նոր պատուիրանէն:

Առաջին, «մէկզմեկ սիրել», որ կը նշանակէ բոլորը սիրել: Ոչ միայն հարազատները, բարեկամները, կամ անոնք, որոնք մեզի հաճելի կը թուին, կամ մեզ կը սիրեն: Այլ Յիսուս կը պատուիրէ սիրել բոլորը, ծանօթ կամ անծանօթ, բարեկամ կամ թշնամի, մօտիկ կամ հեռու, հաճելի կամ անհաճոյ: Բան մը, որ թերեւս դիւրին է ըսել, սակայն շատ դժուար կատարել: Ինչպէ՞ս կարելի է սիրել մէկը, որ կ'ատենք, կամ մէկը որ վնաս կը հասցնէ մեզի, մէկը, որ կը մնայ թշնամի մեզի համար: Յիսուս սիրեց բոլորը անխտիր: Սիրեց Իր հարազատները, հայրը, մայրը եւ ընտանիքի անդամները: Սիրեց Իր աշակերտները եւ Իրեն հետեւողները: Սիրեց նաեւ անոնք, որոնք Ձինք կ'ատէին՝ ինչպէս Փարիսեցիները եւ դպիրները: Սիրեց նոյնիսկ Ձինք մատնողը, մահուան դատապարտողը եւ խաչին վրայ Ձինք քամողը: Սիրեց ամէնը, նոյնիսկ խաչին վրայ քամուած ատեն, աղօթելով անոնց համար եւ խնդրելով, որ Աստուած ներէ բոլորին:

Երկրորդ, Յիսուս պատուիրեց, որ մենք սիրենք բոլոր՝ այն սիրով, որ Ինք մեզ սիրեց: Յիսուսի սիրոյն արտայայտութիւնը այդ գիշեր աշակերտներուն ոտքերը լուալով էր: Ոտքեր, որոնք անհաճոյ էին, կեղտոտ եւ փոշիոտ: Թերեւս մեզի համար հաճելի է մանուկի մը անուշիկ ոտքերը լուալ, սակայն լուաւ 12 մարդոց ձեխտոտ ոտքերը ցանկալի չէ:

Սակայն Յիսուս լուաց, եւ ոչ միայն լուաց, այլ չորցուց, որպէսզի անոնք անգամ մըն ալ ցեխ չբռնեն: Ոչ միայն լուաց ոտքերը, հապա օր մը չանցած լուաց անոնց եւ բոլոր աշխարհի մարդոց հոգիները, խաչին վրայ Իր արիւնը թափելով:

Ճիշդ այսպիսի սիրով է, որ Յիսուս պատուիրեց, որ մենք ալ սիրենք բոլորը: Այլապէս, ինչպէս Յիսուս հաստատեց, մենք կարող չենք կոչուիլ Իր աշակերտները:

\* \* \*

Աստուած այսօր ալ մեզ կը շարունակէ սիրել, նոյն այդ սիրով, առանց պայմանի եւ խտրութեան, ինչպէս որ ենք, ինչ վիճակի մէջ ալ ըլլանք՝ Իր կողմ կամ Իրմէ երես դարձուցած: Աստուած համբերութեամբ եւ ակնկալութեամբ կը շարունակէ հետեւիլ մեր կեանքներուն, եւ պատրաստ է ընդունիլ մեզ: Աստուած նաեւ կը հրաւիրէ, որ մենք ալ նոյն այդ սիրով սիրենք Ձինք եւ մէկզմեկ:

Աստուած կը սիրէ մեզ, սակայն զգոյշ, Աստուած անպայման չի սիրեր մեր բոլոր արարքները: Յիսուս ալ սիրեց Իր թշնամիները, սակայն ոչ ինչ որ անոնք ըրին գիտակցաբար կամ առանց գիտնալու: Յիսուս շարունակեց սիրել Յովան, բայց ոչ անոր մատնելու արարքը: Սիրեց

Շարունակութիւնը էջ 15



## Dr. Pierre Vahe Haig

Dr. Pierre Vahe Haig, a highly respected Armenian American community leader, made his transition to his eternal home on January 12, 2010. His funeral services were held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at the Church of the Reconciliation of Forest Lawn, Glendale, California.



Dr. Haig is survived by his three children — Helen, Mari and Theodore (Carole) Haig; his three grandchildren — Simon, Costel and Michael; and his brother Robert Vartan Haig.

Born on Sept. 24, 1917, in Beirut, Lebanon, Dr. Haig was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Haig and Helen Bahadrian. The Bahadrans came to the United States in the early 1920s. The Haig Bahadrian's name was changed at Ellis Island upon immigration to the U. S. to Bahadrian Haig.

Pierre Vahe demonstrated unusual academic talents from the beginning of his schooling. He was awarded full scholarship during his college years and graduated with highest distinction from the University of Southern California School of Medicine in 1943. After serving three years in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army, during World War II, with the rank of Major, he took residency in radiology and became a specialist in diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology and nuclear medicine. He became a professor of radiology at both the University of California and Loma Linda University.

Dr. Haig was chief physician in radiation oncology at Los Angeles County — USC Medical Center, staff radiologist at Orange County Medical Center and Senior Attending Radiologist at White Memorial Hospital. In 1970, Dr. Haig founded the department of radiation oncology at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, CA, and served as its director for 20 years. He was also appointed by Governor George Deukmejian to the Medical Quality Review Committee for the Orange County and served as its chairman for 10 years. He retired from his professional career in 1990.

Dr. Haig was a good family man, loving husband to his wife of 56 years, Mr. Alice Jernazian Haig. He was a lifelong member of the AMAA besides several other Armenian organization. He was a man of great integrity and sterling character. He lived life fully and extended a helping hand whenever and wherever needed, dedicated to God and human-kind; a life which enriched numerous lives and became a source of blessing to many. □

## Marguerite Gogjian

Marguerite M. (Aznoian) Gogjian, passed away peacefully at the Lawrence General Hospital, on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009 after a brief illness. She was surrounded by her loving family and friends.



She was born in Lawrence, the daughter of the late Peter and Sarah (Sarkisian) Aznoian and was educated in the Methuen School Systems. Margie, as she was known to her friends, was in her early years in the local woolen mills, the Western Electric, and then, as an ever-friendly clerk in the family business. The House of Clean, in Andover. After retiring from that position, she began a new career in the medical field working in the office of her physician son, along side her daughter where she brought enjoyment to the many patients whose lives she touched.

Margie was a member of the Ladies Aid Society of the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church, a member of the Daughters of Vartan and was active in many charitable organizations.

She was an avid reader especially historical and biographical novels and was always up on current events. She enjoyed summers at her home in Seabrook, N.H. and loved to travel. A high point of which was a trip to several European countries with her children.

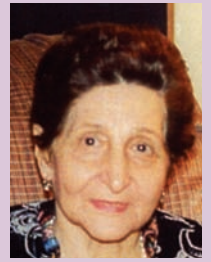
Margie was a devoted mother, wife, sister, daughter, and aunt. She will be sadly, sadly missed by all who loved her. She was an elegant and thoughtful, had a wonderful sense of humor and was known by everyone as a person who always did the "right thing."

She was the widow of Michael Gogjian, to whom she was married for 37 years. She is survived by her loving children: son, Dr. Michael Gogjian, and daughter, Melanie Gogjian, both of Methuen; a sister, Alyce Aznoian, also of Methuen; a brother, Harold Aznoian and his wife Marlene of Andover; a niece, Shari Wilson and her husband John of Andover, a nephew, Peter Aznoian of Methuen; and a niece, Stephanie Aznoian of Andover. She also leaves great-nephews and nieces, Garrison, Kaleigh and Julian Wilson and Nathan and Noah Aznoian.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. □

## Mari Berejiklian

Mari Berejiklian (Raphaphaelian) went to be with her Lord on Aug. 8, 2009 in Los Angeles, CA. She is survived by her children, Zabelle & Hrant Safarian of Tarzana, CA, Astghig & Jack Kitay of Sacramento, CA, Sarkis & Rita Berjiklian of West Hills, CA, 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Her husband Nouri and her oldest son Nazar preceded her in death.



Marie was born on Dec. 25, 1915 in Aleppo, Syria to Roupen and Arusiak (Nazarian) Raphaelian, a well known industrialist family from Aintab, Turkey, who had taken refuge in Aleppo escaping the Armenian massacres. She was the oldest of four children.

During the relative calm of the 1918, the family moved back to Aintab to oversee their orchards, olive gardens, flour mills and dry nuts and miscellaneous importing business. Their stay in Aintab however, did not last long. After 9 months, the killings and deportation started. The entire Raphaelian family moved back to Aleppo, leaving to the Turks their homes, investments and wealth.

Mari's father and her uncles re-started their soap manufacturing business in Aleppo, providing a comfortable life for their families. Mari graduated from Haigazian School in 1930 and was recruited as a teacher at the Kiligian School. Although her teaching career lasted only 2 years she remained a wise teacher and a caring adviser throughout her life.

In 1932 Mari married Nouri Berejiklian and moved to Teheran, Iran, where Nouri, and his brother Zia, had a successful transportation business. Busy family life did not stop Mari from her dedication to the Armenian community. Although she was raised in a *Lusavorchagan* family, she embraced her husband's Protestant faith, joined the Armenian Evang'l Church of Tehran and humbly served her Lord in any way she could.

She lost her beloved husband Nouri to a massive heart attack at the young age of 55. With help from above she took the responsibility of her family upon herself with the help of her oldest son Nazar. In 1979 she, along with her son Nazar, moved to Los Angeles.

Mari Berejiklian was a true believer. She trusted her Lord with an unwavering faith throughout her life, especially during the last several years when her health was failing. Her exemplary life and good memories will always live in the hearts and minds of all who knew her. □

## Dr. Kevork Kherlopian

Dr. Kevork Kherlopian, an Armenologist, died on January 31 after a long illness. He was 82.

Dr. Kherlopian was born on August 19, 1927 in Aleppo. His father, Rev. Dikran Kherlopian, was an Armenologist, who founded the Department of Armenian Studies at Haykatzian University in Beirut.

Kevork Kherlopian received his education at the Emmanuel Armenian School in Aleppo, then at Aleppo College, after which he studied at the Department of Armenian Language, Psychology and Logic of Yerevan State University. He earned a degree in the history of Armenian philosophy, then a doctorate in the field. From 1965 to 1985 he studied the history of Armenian theology under the guidance of the Catholicos of All Armenians Vazken I. He received a doctorate in theology too.

He wrote a number of monographs, including "The World View of Anania Shirakatsy," "The Humanism of Grigor Narekatsy," "Problems of Complex Upbringing at School," "Social and Psychological Problems of University Upbringing" and "The Modern Notions of Upbringing." He was the author of 20 brochures and about 200 research papers on Armenological and religious issues. □



Among the awards he had received were the St. Sahak and St. Mesrop Order conferred by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I, a silver medal from Yerevan State University and the Mkhitar Sebastians Medal of the Mkhitarist Congregation of Venice.

His survivors include one brother, Norair Kherlopian, of Belmont, Mass.

## Antibas Kevork Balian "Kev"

July 9, 1928 - March 15, 2010

Patriarch of the Balian Family

Beloved brother, uncle, great uncle, and friend. He was the oldest of 7 surviving children, a responsibility that he fulfilled well. "Kev," as he was known, was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon - living for one year in Jerusalem during WWII. He worked in the travel industry for 65 years, beginning as a clerk at Thomas Cook's, and traveled throughout the world.

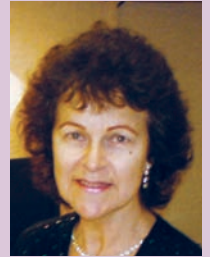
He immigrated to the United States in 1967, and opened Kev's Travel Agency in Boston, Massachusetts. He became a US citizen and loved his adopted country but always had a special place in his heart for the land and people of Armenia, home of his ancestors. He moved to Deerfield Beach, Florida in 2009 to be closer to three of his sisters, and passed away after a brief illness. Young at heart to his last day, he was a blessing to those who knew him.

A private ceremony was held in Fresno, California on March 19, 2010.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America to the B.K. Balian Mem'l Fund. □

## Jayne Johnson

Jayne Johnson, the Executive Secretary to the Executive Director of the AMAA made her transition to her eternal home on March 8, 2010 after battling cancer the past 6 months.



Mrs. Johnson was born in Bay Ridge, New York and has been employed in the secretarial field for over 40 years, the last 10 years at the AMAA headquarters.

Jayne was always ready to use her strong administrative, stenographic and typing skills for the staff and Board members. She provided much needed support to the Executive Directors and the management of the AMAA. She performed an integral role in ensuring coordination of Board and committee meetings, including compilation of the minutes.

The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff express their condolences to her family and loved ones. She will be missed by all. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- \* **Norman Balabanian**  
*Gainesville, FL*
- \* **John Bogdasarian**  
*Boca Raton, FL*
- \* **Serpouhi Boyadjian**  
*Pasadena, CA*
- \* **Armen Dildilian**  
*Port Washington, NY*
- \* **Yeranouhi Koundakjian**  
*Hawthorne, CA*
- \* **Loucine Manoushagian**  
*New York, NY*
- \* **George Melidonian**  
*San Diego, CA*
- \* **David Minassian**  
*Fresno, CA*
- \* **Alex Salibian**  
*Northridge, CA*
- \* **Gloria Zakarian**  
*Hasbrouck Hts, NJ*

\* Memorials designated for AMAA

## Ծարունակութիւն էջ 13-ի

Հոռվմէացի զինուորները, բայց ոչ այն բոլոր վայրագութիւնները, որ անոնք կատարեցին Իր մարմինին վրայ: Յիսուս մեզ ալ կը սիրէ, սակայն ոչ՝ անպայման մեր ըրածները, եթէ անոնք սխալ են:

\* \* \*

Ապրիլ ամսուան ընթացքին երկու յիշատակութիւններ առաջնահերթ կ'ըլլան մեզի համար: Յիսուսի հրաշաքար Յարութեան տօնակատարութիւնը եւ Հայոց ցեղասպանութեան յիշատակումը:

Երկու կարեւոր դասեր կարելի է առնել: Թէ մենք ալ, որպէս Յիսուս Քրիստոսի հաւատարիմ հետեւորդներ պատրաստ ըլլալու ենք սիրելու բոլորը՝ զոհաբերական այն սիրով, որ Ինք մեզ սիրեց երբ խաչը ելաւ մեզի համար: Սիրելու այդ արտայայտութիւնը մենք կրնանք սկսիլ բաժնելով մեր օրհնութիւնները ուրիշներուն հետ, յատկապէս բոլոր անոնց հետ, որոնք չեն վայելել այն բարիքները, որ մենք օրէ օր կը վայելենք:

Երկրորդ, թէ մենք պատրաստ ըլլալու ենք սիրել նոյնիսկ մեր թշնամին: Պատրաստ ըլլալու ենք կատարել, ինչ որ Յիսուս կը պատուիրէ մեզի, այն հասկացողութեամբ, որ այն՝ ինչ որ անոնք կատարեցին 95 տարիներ առաջ, կարելի չէ սիրել: Յիսուս սիրեց Զինք չի սիրողները այն վստահութեամբ, որ անոնք ալ դարձի կու գան: Մենք ալ սիրենք մեր թշնամին այն համոզումով, որ անոնք ալ գիտակցին եւ ընդունին իրենց ահրելի արարքը: Կը սպասենք այդ օրուան, ինչպէս Յիսուս ալ համբերութեամբ կը սպասէ որ մարդիկ դարձի գան:

Յիսուս այսօր անգամ մը եւս կը պատուիրէ բոլորին «Մէկզմէկ սիրէք, ինչպէս որ ես ձեզ սիրեցի»: Այս է Նոր Պատուիրանը: □





**Armenian Missionary Association of America**  
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Paramus, NJ 07652

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## What are your plans for the future?

A planned gift, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust, offers a win-win situation, benefitting you, the donor, as well as the individuals who need and deserve the AMAA's support.

Charitable Remainder Trusts are an ideal form of philanthropy for individuals with assets that have appreciated in value and would be subject to significant tax liability if liquidated. You may make a gift of cash, marketable securities, or certain types of real estate, art and other tangible personal property to the AMAA and designate yourself and/or another beneficiary to receive income for life.

If you are interested in learning more about how a charitable trust may help the AMAA's long-range goals and for more information please contact the office at (201) 265-2607 or via e-mail at [amaa@amaa.org](mailto:amaa@amaa.org) for more information.

### Charitable Remainder Trust

